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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1968

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URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1968

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR G.W. GRIFFIN

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

COUNCILLOR S.J. MORLEY

COUNCILLORS:

A.A. CLAY
F. CRAWLEY
W. FINLOW
H. HUGHES
A. WILDS

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. P. LAVIS, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for the Borough of Buckingham, the Urban Districts of Bletchley and Wolverton, and the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Winslow; Area Medical Officer for North Bucks. and Divisional School Medical Officer for the N. Bucks. Division and Buckingham and Winslow Districts).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. J.P. HUTCHBY, M.B.,B.Ch.,D.P.H. (until September)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND HOUSING MANAGER

R. PICKFORD, Cert.S.I.B.,MA.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
60a High Street,
Newport Pagnell.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council, May, 1969.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1968.

Vital Statistics.

There is now an appreciable gap between the birth and death rates which means that the district is contributing in no small measure to the rise in population. More remarkable is the fact that over 70% of deaths occurred at age 75 and over. The earliest death was in the late 30's. This suggests a particularly healthy population.

Infectious Diseases.

These diseases are largely confined to those affecting children and with a few exceptions are mainly of nuisance value. Any infectious disease in a child not in good physical health is potentially dangerous and some common infections cripple even the healthy. The introduction of a measles vaccine during the year means that another hazard might eventually be eliminated altogether. In future children will be offered this vaccine automatically, and more complete population cover will be achieved by computer recording which started on January first.

On the 1st October the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 came into operation. This revised the list of notifiable infectious diseases and tidied up much of the law relating to the Department's duties in relation to these and food poisoning. Some tightening of enquiries into immigrants health has now been made possible but the situation is far from satisfactory in this respect.

Environment Health.

The Milton Keynes Development Corporation like the Newport Pagnell Urban District Council, has accepted the desirability of creating smoke control areas in the new city and its environs. Much preliminary work will be required before proposals can be put to the Ministry of Housing and on present staff this is impossible. In the mean-time a measuring gauge for atmospheric pollution is being purchased. One hopes that the additional staff will be available by the time smoke control areas need to be brought into operation.

No doubt there will be an increased amount of inspection and advisory work even before the new city population builds up. Some form of co-operation with neighbouring Authorities' Public Health Departments will be essential in order to cope with the multiple problems to be faced and I hope to be able to recommend a system for this co-operation in the near future.

Health Education

One of the monthly themes emphasized this year was "Poisoning Hazards in the Home". With the kind co-operation of chemists the public were invited to hand in their old and superfluous drugs. A surprising amount of tablets were brought in, many of them lethal if mis-used. I hope that many people were also reminded by these means to safe-guard their children from these dangers.

Your Public Health Inspector organized and carried out two excellent food hygiene courses designed for food handlers. The response from local trades-people was good and Mr. Pickford put across the subject in such a lively way with audience participation ensuring the most up to date principles and practices were driven home. He is following these courses by discussions with the Managers of shops, cafes, and public houses so that staff are encouraged and given support to use the safest techniques. The results of these efforts will become evident in the course of time.

It is of some concern that Salmonella infection is a constant risk and there is no adequate drug treatment for this infection. The carrier rate is high and the only way this can be kept under control is by the adoption of the best techniques in food handling and personal hygiene.

I must thank the Council and the Public Health Committee for the interest they always show in Public Health work.

I am your obedient servant

P. LAVIS

Medical Officer of Health.

NEWPORT PAGNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1968

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

	1968	1967
Area (in acres)	3,432	3,432
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,117	2,036
Population	5,700	5,470
Rateable Value	£286,280	£266,186
Rate Per Pound	12/4	12/3
Product of 1d. rate	£1156	£1121

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Legitimate (Males)	68	46
Legitimate (Females)	39	52
Illegitimate (Males)	2	4
Illegitimate (Females)	4	1
Stillbirths	1	2
Birth rate per 1,000 pop. (Adjusted)	20.4	23.5
Birth rate per 1,000 pop. (Bucks.)	17.9	18.1
Birth rate per 1,000 pop. (England & Wales)	16.9	17.2

Deaths

Males	49	47
Females	50	53
Death rate per 1,000 pop. (Adjusted)	8.1	8.9
Death rate per 1,000 pop. (Bucks.)	9.1	8.9
Death rate per 1,000 pop. (England & W.)	11.9	11.2
Infant Mortality (Deaths under one year per 1,00 births)	NIL	NIL
Infant Mortality (England and Wales)	13.0	18.3

Principal Causes of Death

	1968			1967		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Cancer: Lung, Bronchus	4	0	4	3	0	3
Other	4	7	11	8	5	13
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	7	14	5	10	15
Heart Diseases	13	13	26	18	21	39
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	3	4	1	2	3
Pneumonia	14	13	27	5	9	14
Bronchitis	2	2	4	1	1	2
Accidents	0	1	1	0	3	3
All other causes	4	4	8	6	2	8
TOTAL	49	50	99	47	53	100

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

	1968	1967
Measles	1	107
Whooping Cough	1	-
Tuberculosis	1	1
Scarlet Fever	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1
Dysentery (Sonne)	-	1

SECTION B

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. AMBULANCE SERVICE

Administered by the Bucks. County Council, main North Bucks. Station at Bletchley, with a sub-station at Newport Pagnell.

2. HOSPITALS

Under the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, General Hospitals at Bedford, Northampton and Aylesbury. Outpatient facilities available at Wolverton and Bletchley. Newport Pagnell - Westbury (Maternity) and Renny Lodge (Geriatric).

3. PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Northampton.

4. HEALTH VISITOR

Miss S. Poole (Telephone: Wolverton 2320).

Area Superintendant: Mrs. D.F. Marett at the Area Health Offices, Bletchley. (Telephone: Bletchley 4701).

5. DISTRICT NURSES / MIDWIVES

Work with General Practitioners. Area Superintendant: Mrs. O.N. Riley, at the Area Health Office, Bletchley.

6. SOCIAL WORKERS

(Medical, Welfare, Blind and Mental Health) at Area Health Office, Bletchley. Area Social Worker: Mr. P.K. Smith.

7. HOME HELP SERVICE

Area Organiser: Mrs. E.N. Franklin at the Area Health Office, Bletchley.

8. CHILD HEALTH CLINIC

Congregational School room, High Street, first and third Wednesdays in each month at 2.00 p.m.

9. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Administered from the Area Health Office. This includes arrangements for examination of pupils in accordance with the Education Act 1944 ascertainment of handicapped pupils and carrying out or arranging treatment. The child guidance and dental clinics under this service are situated at Whalley Drive, Bletchley. Vaccination and immunisation against Diptheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Polio and Tuberculosis is undertaken.

10. INDUSTRIAL UNIT

Whaddon Way, Bletchley.

11. CONTRACEPTION ADVICE

Weekly clinics held at Whalley Drive Health Clinic, Bletchley, by the Family Planning Association. (By appointment, Telephone: Bletchley 2285).

12. MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

Interviews held at Whalley Drive Health Clinic. (Appointments - Telephone: Soulbury 252).

13. CHILDRENS DEPARTMENT

Area Child Care Officer - Miss J. Walker (Telephone: Bletchley 4701).

14. ACCOMMODATION FOR ELDERLY

The Green, Newport Pagnell.

REPORT OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1968.

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL REMARKS

The year has been a busy one for the Department, a great deal of back log having to be picked up, particularly in the sphere of food hygiene and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

A total of 1,120 visits were made to various types of premises, 111 complaints were received and 89 Informal Notices were served.

The Department also carries the responsibilities of Housing Management and 334 visits were made in connection with Council houses. A report on the housing position is attached to the end of this report.

Much credit is due to my secretary who has contributed a great deal to the work of the Department by her hard work and keen interest. Thanks are also due to the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk of the Council and the Engineer and Surveyor for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The following table shows the number of food premises in the District and the number of visits made.

Type of Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Grocers	14	39
Restaurants (including Licensed Premises serving meals	7	19
Canteens	4	3
Butchers	5	20
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages or processed foods	5	10
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	3	12
Fried Fish Shops	1	8
Confectioners and Sweets	11	10
Bakehouses	1	9
Licensed Premises	15	20
Milk Distributors and Dairies	3	6
Food Factories	1	2
Premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream	1	5
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream	21	11
Wet Fish Shop	1	1
TOTAL	93	175

During the year special attention was given to the inspection of food premises. The general standard of hygiene left much to be desired and it was necessary to draw the occupiers attention in writing to various contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. Thirty-seven letters were sent during the year to the following:-

Grocers	8
Restaurants	8
Canteens	1
Butchers	4
Greengrocers	2
Fried Fish Shop	1
Confectioners	2
Bakehouse	1
Licensed Premises	8
Milk Distributors	1
Ice Cream Manufacturer	1

As a result of action taken the following improvements had been carried out to food premises by the end of the year.

Improvements carried out:	Premises	No.	Total
CLEANLINESS:	Butchers	4	
	Grocers	1	
	Fried Fish Shop	1	
	Confectioner	1	
	Restaurants	2	
	Licensed Premises	1	
	Canteen	1	11
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION:	Grocers	3	
	Fried Fish Shop	1	
	Confectioners	1	
	Butchers	1	
	Fruiterers	1	
	Canteen	1	8
WASHING FACILITIES:	Fried Fish Shop	1	
	Grocers	2	
	Confectioners	1	
	Butchers	2	
	Restaurants	1	
	Licensed Premises	1	
	Fruiterers	1	9
VENTILATION:	Butchers	1	
	Confectioners	1	
	Canteen	1	3
LIGHTING:	Fruiterer	1	1
REPAIRS:	Butcher	1	
	Grocer	1	
	Fried Fish Shop	1	
	Confectioner	1	
	Canteen	1	5

The restaurants at the Service Area of the M.1 received regular attention during the year. These restaurants serve an average of 5,000 meals per day and failure to maintain a high standard of hygiene could have serious repercussions over a very wide area. The general standard of hygiene was good, but a temporary fall in standard at one period made it necessary to draw the Managements attention to the fact. An immediate improvement followed and co-operation from the management has been excellent. Some difficulty has also been experienced with the storage of refuse and kitchen waste prior to collection. This was mainly due to the failure of staff to carry out instructions, allowing the storage bins to remain uncovered and the area to become dirty and untidy. The Management are now paying more attention to this matter.

In October a course of instruction in food hygiene was launched and was attended by 66 food workers from 25 different firms. The sessions were held in the afternoon, employers being asked to release employees for one hour per week. In order to make it possible for every member of a shop's staff to attend, each session was held twice on successive days, the entire course ran for a period of six weeks.

The course included the use of films, slides and other visual aids including microscopes and bacteriological cultures. Small practical experiments were used and group discussions were included. The result was a varied programme which held the interest of those attending.

Following the final session a social evening was held when certificates of attendance were presented by the Chairman of the Council and the Vice Chairman of the Public Health Committee and a food hygiene quiz held between the Tuesday and Wednesday classes. It it felt that although the course involved a great deal of preparation and was time consuming, it was nevertheless very worth while. It did much to create good relationships between food staffs and the Public Health Inspector.

I would like to express my particular appreciation for the help given by the Headmaster and staff of Radcliffe Comprehensive School, Wolverton, and the Director and staff of the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton who readily gave advice and loaned equipment for the course.

One disappointing feature of the course was the fact that only one person attended from the licensed trade. Standards of hygiene in public houses have left much to be desired and is a feature which calls for further attention. Glass washing methods are far from satisfactory in several establishments and the use of domestic kitchens, often small and badly constructed, for the preparation of meals is becoming increasingly common. Indications are that the majority of public house landlords have little knowledge of the basic principles of food hygiene.

A further point arising from the course is that the majority of those attending were shop assistants. Managements and Proprietors were for the most part absent. They should be at least as knowledgeable as their assistants and an appropriate course of instruction for them would be of value. It is still necessary however, to win the interest of this group of people. During 1969 it is planned to continue the "Clean Food" campaign by appealing to the public for their interest and support, using various items of publicity, by approaching Managements, and by instituting regular bacteriological sampling for cleanliness.

The following information is required to be included in the report by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960-62.

	Total	Fitted to comply with Regulation 16*	To which Reg. 19 applies+	Fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Grocers	14	13	14	14
Restaurants	7	3	7	7
Canteens	4	4	4	4
Butchers	5	5	5	5
Manufacture of sausages or processed foods	5	5	5	5
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	3	3	3	3
Fried Fish Shop	1	1	1	1
Confectioners and sweets	11	11	11	11
Bakehouses	1	1	1	1
Licensed Premises	15	12	15	14
Food Factories	1	1	1	1
Manufacture of Ice Cream	1	1	1	1
Sale of Ice Cream	21	21	14	14
Wet Fish Shops	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	90	82	83	82

* Regulation 16 relates to the provision of personal washing facilities.

+ Regulation 19 relates to the provision of facilities for the washing of equipment and food.

ICE CREAM

There are 21 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and one for the manufacture of ice cream. 8 samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows.

Grade	Number of Samples	
1	3	
11	2	
111	2	Unsatisfactory
1V	1	

Some difficulty was experienced with the Manufacturer both with regard to the condition of the premises and the quality of the samples. The business was taken over early in the year by two Italians who appeared to have little knowledge of the standard of hygiene necessary. Both hot and cold mixes were produced, although the equipment did not comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

Strenuous efforts were made to bring about an improvement but the business closed down in September and has not been re-opened.

UNSOUND FOOD

The following quantities of unsound food were surrendered during the year:-

Canned Meats	47 lbs.
Other Canned Foods	28 lbs.
Frozen foods	49 lbs.

Two complaints of foreign matter in food were received by the Department. The first concerned a piece of paper in a cake, the second concerned a piece of woody material in a jar of jam. Both cases were taken up with the Manufacturers and the Public Health Committee decided that no further action should be taken.

The Bedford Meat Company continued to send carcases of beef affected with Cysticercus Bovis slaughtered at the abattoir situated in the Kempston Urban District to the cold store of Messrs. Fleet, 61 High Street. Inspections were made to ensure that the carcases were stored for the required period of time. Eight carcases were dealt with during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Considerable attention was paid to these premises during the year. It was intended to carry out a detailed inspection of all premises registered under the Act but pressure of work prevented this from being achieved. It was possible to carry out 45 detailed inspections and a total of 78 visits were made.

198 contraventions were found and in every case the occupier was notified in writing. Details of premises registered and the contraventions found are set out in the tables below.

Particular difficulty was experienced with the ventilation of shops. It appears to be common practice to design shop fronts without any ventilation opening and occupiers proved reluctant to comply. In the absence of any prescribed standard of ventilation it is difficult to demand openings of adequate size, the occupiers claim that the door provides a sufficient supply of fresh air.

Accidents

Accidents occurring on premises registered under the Act and which cause an employee to be absent from work for more than three days, are required to be notified to the Local Authority. Three such accidents were reported during 1968. Investigation of the accidents did not reveal any particular contraventions of the Act. This is an important provision of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act but many Managements do not seem to be aware of it. There would appear to be a need for some publicity in this direction.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during the year	Total no. of premises registered at the end of year	No. of Premises receiving a detailed inspection in 1968
Offices	1	20	8
Retail Shops	5	51	34
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	-
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	1	5	3
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	-
TOTAL	7	78	45

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	137
Retail Shops	274
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	7
Catering Establishments open to the public and canteens	295
Fuel Storage Depots	5
TOTAL	718

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Nature of Contravention	No. found	Nature of Contravention	No. found
Cleanliness	28	Eating facilities	2
Overcrowding	1	Floors, passages and stairs	19
Temperature	13	Fencing of machinery	5
Ventilation	23	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
Lighting	7	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	--
Sanitary Conveniences	19	Prohibition of heavy work	-
Washing Facilities	15	First Aid	19
Supply of drinking water	-	Information for Employees	34
Clothing accommodation	7	Others	1
Sitting Facilities	2	TOTAL	198
Seats (sedentary work)	3		

Demolition

Eighteen dwellings were demolished during 1968. Fourteen of these were situated in Priory Street and had been purchased by the Council, the Priory Street area having been defined as one suitable for redevelopment. This area of the town has remained in a semi derelict condition for some time and the demolition of these properties is a progressive step. It is hoped that 1969 may see the commencement of positive redevelopment. The four other properties demolished were in private ownership and demolition was carried out following informal action.

Closure

Ten dwellings were closed during the year by the acceptance of informal undertakings. Six of these properties stood vacant at the beginning of the year and the acceptance of undertakings served to regularise the position. Of the remaining four, the tenants of three of the houses were rehoused by the Council and one remains occupied.

The analysis of persons displaced from unfit houses during 1968 is as follows:-

Category	No. of Persons	No. of Families
Houses subject to closure	15	3
Houses subject to demolition	5	2

Occupation of Unfit Dwellings.

At the end of the year there were eleven dwellings on the list of Unfit Properties which were still occupied. Nine of these dwellings were occupied by persons reluctant to leave the houses. The remaining two have been placed on the Housing Selected List and early rehousing is anticipated.

During the year four unfit houses were in temporary use under Section 17 (2) of the Act but this figure had been reduced to one by the end of the year.

Disrepair

Following complaints fifteen Informal Notices were served on owners respecting disrepair in dwelling houses. By the end of the year seven of the notices had been complied with. No Formal Notices were served in this respect during the year.

Improvement of dwellings

Compulsory powers of improvement have not been employed by this Authority but nineteen Standard Grants and eight Discretionary Improvement Grants were paid to house owners upon completion of improvements during the year. It is estimated that there are some 200 private dwellings in the town suitable for improvement to the five point standard and the new housing legislation is awaited before recommending a policy with regard to such property.

Although at the time of compiling this report the new Housing Bill has not been introduced it is anticipated that it is the Governments intention to step up the rate of improving older houses. The White Paper has already indicated that the Bill will be principally concerned with the improvements and repair of houses. Increased grants are proposed and Local Authorities are to have power to create general improvement areas. It is proposed to repeal the improvement area provisions of the Housing Act 1964. The existing powers of Local Authorities to compel the improvement of individual houses at the request of the tenant are to remain. The implementation of the new Act is bound to mean increased work for the Public Health Department.

Empty, Derelict Properties.

The unusually large number of empty, derelict properties in the town was commented upon in my report for 1967. In May a report on the subject was submitted to the Public Health Committee which resulted in action being taken to secure demolition or rehabilitation where possible. A survey revealed that there were 116 empty and derelict properties, 30 of these were already subject to Informal Undertakings not to use for habitation, 69 of the properties were suitable for demolition. By the end of the year some progress had been made, early demolition of 27 properties was expected and plans for the rehabilitation or conversion of 12 properties were in hand.

More rapid progress has been hampered by the fact that quite a number of the derelict properties are thought to be affected by road improvements and it is proving difficult to obtain any precise information on this point from the Bucks. County Council. In the interests of Public Health alone it is essential that the County Council should be more decisive.

The number of visits relating to housing matters made during 1968 were as follows:-

	Visits under Housing Acts	Visits under Public Health Acts
No. of houses inspected	40	13
No. of other visits	128	34

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Under the Noise Abatement Act 1960, noise or vibration which is a nuisance can be dealt with as a Statutory Nuisance under part three of the Public Health Act 1936. These Statutes impose a duty on Council's to take steps to reduce noise nuisances.

Seven complaints of noise were received by the Department during the year. Four related to domestic activities such at T.V. sets, barking dogs and noisey occupants of houses, in each case an informal approach brought about an improvement.

A total of twenty visits were made in connection with noise complaints. One complaint related to the roadworks in the High Street which spread over several months of the year. By approaching the Contractors concerned an electrical generator used in conjunction with temporary traffic lights was removed, and pneumatic drills were fitted with mufflers in several cases. Unfortunately mufflers were not fitted in every case and some avoidable noise was experienced. In this respect circular 59/68 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government pointed out that Local Authorities may wish to consider taking proceedings against firms using breakers without effective silencers. Statutory Undertakers are however, exempt from the provision of the Noise Abatement Act and the matter was taken up informally with the Water, Gas and Electricity Undertakings and with the Bucks. County Council. All the Undertakers except the Electricity Board replied that steps were being taken to secure the use of silencers. No information has been received from the Electricity Board. The Council's Engineer and Surveyor has also agreed to incorporate a clause in any appropriate contracts to restrict noise from compressors and road drills.

Road traffic continues to be a troublesome source of noise in the town. Some control on noise from road traffic and vehicles has been given to the Police but it is disappointing to learn that the Police Authorities in this area have not carried out any sound measurements to enforce the legal standards. So far as could be ascertained there are no plans to implement the provisions in the near future. It seems unfortunate that Public Health Inspectors are in the position of having no powers in a subject in which they are deeply interested. Heavy traffic levels will undoubtedly burden society for a long while to come and future town planning must take into account the environmental advantages to be gained by keeping traffic movement to a minimum in residential areas.

During the year I was privileged to attend a course of training in noise at the Twickenham College of Technology.

PEST CONTROL

During the year 47 rodent complaints were received by the Department. A total of 441 visits for rats and 52 visits for mice were made by the Rodent Operator in the course of disinfestation. A survey of sewers was also carried out when 55 manholes were test baited, no takes were recorded. General indications were that rodent infestation was not decreasing, the refuse tip continued to be heavily infested and a reservoir infestation was confirmed along the banks of the River Lovat.

The Rodent Operator employed was unsuited to the work and disinfestation was not being carried out as efficiently as might be desired. In October, a new Operator was appointed and he has displayed keen interest and initiative. Arrangements were made for him to attend a one day course of training held by the Ministry of Agriculture, and results are already encouraging. It is hoped to submit a revised scheme for pest control to the Council early in 1969.

CLEAN AIR ACT

In February complaints were received of smoke emissions from the boiler chimney at the factory of Aston Martin Lagonda Limited. Observations were carried out and it was established that contraventions of the Clean Air Act were being committed. Investigations revealed that the emissions were due to three causes:-

a) The boiler was being overloaded.

b) Too fast a fuel feed was being employed.

c) An inexperienced stoker was cleaning the fires too thoroughly.

Adjustments were made, the stoker was given some instruction and an improvement was effected. However, in December the emissions recurred and on this occasion the Company laid the blame on an unexpected change in the type of coal supplied and a broken worm feed to the underfeed stoker. The emissions were remedied within a few days.

The plant employed consists of a Cockrane type vertical multitubular boiler fitted with an automatic underfeed stoker, the boiler rating is 6,000 lbs of steam per hour. This rating would appear to be inadequate at times of peak demand and I believe this to be the basic cause of all the trouble. In April, I urged the management to seriously consider replacing the plant but by the end of the year no positive steps appear to have been taken.

FLOODING

On 11th July flooding occurred in Willen Road, Station Road, Wolverton Road and Little Linford Lane following heavy rain over a period of 15 hours and a severe storm during the night. No houses became affected that day. The following night however the level of the River Lovat rose rapidly and flooding occurred in Priory Street, Tickford Street, Caldecote Street and Silver Street. On this occasion a total of 15 houses, 3 shops and one bakehouse were flooded.

All houses in the flooded area were visited on 12th and 13th July and sandbags were provided where required by the Council's Engineer. Tests were also made to detect the presence of sewage in the flood water.

On 13th July the flood water subsided from all the houses except Bridge House, Riverside and 13 Priory Street where it remained below the floors. These properties were clear by 15th July. All properties affected were kept under observation and were found to be drying out without any serious problems.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied with water by the Bucks. Water Board. The bulk of the supply is drawn from the Ash Hill and Foxcote sources but part of North Crawley Road receives water from the Ampthill supply, this water being taken from the River Ouse.

No flouride is added at the present time but I understand it is the policy of the Bucks. Water Board to carry this out as soon as agreement can be reached with the many Authorities concerned.

No restrictions were imposed on the use of the public water supply for domestic and trade purposes during 1968.

An estimated 2,117 dwellings with a population of 5,700 are supplied with mains water. Three houses are known to be without a supply of water from the main, involving a population of ten people.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During 1968 the extensions to the existing sewage works were completed. The works are now designed for a total population of 7,000 thus allowing for a further increase of 1,000 in the town's population.

The new river crossing was also completed although some teething troubles were experienced with the temporary pumping station. This sewer will accommodate the 300 houses and a school to be constructed on the H.3 site.

The sewer in Little Linford Lane and Wolverton Road caused some trouble during the year by surcharging. Although the construction of an additional grease interceptor at the M.1 Service Station brought about some improvement the sewer still remains inadequate. Consequently Consultants have been instructed to draw up plans for a new 9-27" sewer. This will then be capable of serving the future H.1. development site where it is proposed to erect 1,250 houses.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961 as required by the Department of Health and Social Security

Part 1 of the Act.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	6	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	5	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' Premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	32	5	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found:- Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

Part Vlll of the Act

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

No outworkers were notified in the August list required by Section 133 and there has been no evidence of cases of default in sending lists to this Council. There have been no prosecutions for failure to supply lists. No instances of work in unwholesome premises arose for action under Section 134.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

No new Council houses were erected during the year but the block of old persons dwellings at Chartwell Road was completed and officially opened on 23rd May, 1968. This provided 28 one-bed dwellings and 11 bed-sitters. A resident warden is employed and a common room is provided for the use of residents. The accommodation has proved popular with the occupants and the scheme is operating extremely well. A second warden is employed by the Council for the old persons dwellings at Almond Close and Whitethorns. These dwellings do not form a compact unit like the Chartwell Road flats but emergency bells are fitted and are connected to the warden's bungalow. This scheme is also operating satisfactorily.

The Council's total housing stock at the end of the year stood as follows:-

4 bedroomed accommodation	8
3 bedroomed accommodation	226
2 bedroomed accommodation	41
1 bedroomed accommodation	73
Bed-sitter accommodation	39
TOTAL	387

During the year 101 new applications were received, an increase of 19 on the previous year. This figure can be divided as follows:-

2-4 bed. accommodation	57	
1 bed. accommodation	18	Old Person accommodation.
Bed-sitter accommodation (Single Applicants)	26	Old Person accommodation.

At the end of 1968 the waiting list contained the names of 164 applicants, exactly the same figure as at the end of the previous year. This is in spite of the fact that a six monthly renewal scheme is carried out whereby applicants are required to re-register, any applicant failing to renew registration being removed from the waiting list. This ensures that the waiting list is kept up to date.

It is of interest to note the type of accommodation required to meet the needs of applicants. The following table shows this:-

Accommodation required	Resident	Non-resident	Totals
4 bedroom	4	2	6
3 bedroom	16	15	31
2 bedroom	40	15	55
1 bedroom	21	8	29
Bed-sitter (Single applicants)	34	9	43
TOTAL	115	49	164

It will be seen from the above table that 33% of all applicants could be accommodated in two bed. type dwellings and 44% in one bed. type. The future demand in clearly for a smaller type of dwelling.

It will also be observed that the above table is split into residents and non-residents. This is because the Council place strong emphasis on residential qualification. Any new applicant from outside the town is advised that the prospects of receiving accommodation are slight.

Due to the difficult economic situation no new building for housing purposes was commenced during 1968 and at the end of the year there were no firm proposals to build during 1969. Whitethorns Phase II remains to be carried out and there are some tentative proposals to develop the Priory Street site. The present waiting list indicates that there is still a considerable demand for Council accommodation and it is to be hoped that circumstances will permit some building to be done during 1969.

Annual variation of Waiting List (December)

	1965	1966	1967	1968
Resident	104	151	98	115
Non-resident	60	40	66	49
TOTALS	164	191	164	164
Total Housing Stock	296	347	378	387

Number of New Applications received per year

Type of Accommodation	1967	1968
2-4 bed. type	46	57
1 bed. type	10	18
Bed-sitters	26	26
TOTALS	82	101

Annual Number of Relets

Type of Accommodation	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
2-4 bed. type	5	6	5	9	16	10
1 bed. type	2	-	-	2	4	4
Bed-sitters	2	-	3	-	3	2
TOTAL	9	6	8	11	23	16